

Section 809. Vessel and Intermodal Security Reports

Section 610 of the House bill requires the Secretary of the department in which the Coast 39 Guard is operating to provide Congress with a report that will provide a complete breakdown of the number and types of cargo containers and vessels that enter the United States each year, and the cost incurred to conduct security inspections on those containers and vessels.

The Senate amendment does not contain a similar provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment that requires the Secretary and the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to submit a number of reports, plans, evaluations, and take actions regarding the security of marine intermodal transportation, specifically the security of cargo containers.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendments, and modifications committed to conference:

DON YOUNG,
HOWARD COBLE,
JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr.,
PETE HOEKSTRA,
FRANK L. BIONDO,
ROB SIMMONS,
MARIO DIAZ-BALART,
JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
BOB FILNER,
TIMOTHY BISHOP,
NICK LAMPSON.

For consideration of the House bill and Senate amendments, and modifications committed to conference:

CHRIS COX,
BENNIE G. THOMPSON.

Managers on the Part of the House.

JOHN MCCAIN,
TED STEVENS,
TRENT LOTT,
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON,
OLYMPIA SNOWE,
FRITZ HOLLINGS,
DANIEL K. INOUE,
JOHN BREAUX,
RON WYDEN,
JIM INHOFE,
JIM JEFFORDS.

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4613, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House have until midnight, July 20, 2004, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 4613) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4850, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

□ 1500

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 724 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4850.

□ 1500

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4850) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, with Mr. BASS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2005 District of Columbia appropriations bill. This bill passed out of full committee on July 14.

The bill before us totals \$560 million in Federal funds and \$8.2 billion in local funds. Within this total, the District expects to receive approximately \$1.9 billion in Federal grant funds.

The bill is the product of hard work by every member of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. I personally want to thank each of them for their input into the bill. I especially want to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), for his advice, counsel, and support in the development of this bill. I enjoyed working with him on behalf of the city of Washington.

The subcommittee held hearings and visited many local sites, including the District of Columbia public schools and charter schools, and police and fire department facilities, to name just a few. We developed this bill with the input from members of the subcommittee, other House Members, the Mayor and city council, and interested citizens.

I believe that this bill continues Congress's commitment to our Nation's Capital. As with every piece of legislation, there are many deserving

projects that could not be accommodated within our funding allocation, but this is a balanced and equitable bill, a bill that everyone can and should support.

I am pleased to note that the District of Columbia continues to make significant progress in improving both its financial and program management. This is the seventh balanced budget the District has submitted to Congress for review; and, once again, the District received a clean audit from the city's independent auditors. The city also had a recent upgrading in its bond rating by Moody's Investors Service to an A rating, and this is the first time the city has received an A rating from all three of the major rating agencies. It should be remembered that it was not long ago that the city's credit rating was the lowest of the low. Mayor Williams and the city council should be commended for their actions.

After detailed review of the budget, the bill continues the Federal commitment began in 1997 for funding the District of Columbia courts as well as the Defender Services and the Court Services and the Defender Supervision Agency and the Public Defender Service. The bill also provides \$118.9 million for other high-priority District and congressional programs projects.

Among these: \$25.6 million for the recently authorized and very successful resident tuition support program; \$15 million for emergency planning and security costs; \$10 million for the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority to continue the combined sewer overflow project; \$3 million for continued work on the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative; as well as \$7 million for the capital development in the District to complete construction of a multi-agency unified communications center, which benefits police, fire, EMS, and other city agencies; \$6 million for a new public library learning center initiative; and \$5 million for foster care improvement.

At the city's request, the bill also changes the city's reserve requirement from 7 to 6 percent. This change frees up additional resources, provides the city with more flexibility in balancing its budget, and does so without impacting the city's favorable bond rating.

As I noted earlier, the District has accomplished much, but still more needs to be done. We are particularly troubled by some of the more intractable problems facing the District that seem to revolve around its children. If this bill has a theme, it is to continue to make sure to help the children of the District of Columbia. To help address this issue, this bill also includes \$5 million for the recently established foster care improvement program, additional money for family literacy, and \$6 million for the new library/learning center initiative subject to a 1-to-1 match by the District.

Over the past year, we visited many of the city's schools, and I can tell my colleagues from personal observation